

**W**hat might instill in us such great hope that we, like the first disciples in today's Gospel, leave behind all that we know, all that we have loved, to follow Christ? We hear this story so often that it is easy to play down the momentous nature of the act of faith the disciples made in abandoning everything to follow Jesus. They had families, a respectable, lucrative profession, and belonged to a community in which they played a vital role. Yet all of this they forsook on the promise of one man.

We are told in the Catechism that Christian Hope "is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1817) Hope is a dialogue between God and the soul that ignites a desire so great that no worldly joy can quench it. Here, Christ begins this dialogue of hope by announcing that "The time has come ... and the kingdom of God is close at hand." If this proclamation does not stir in you some sense of joyful expectation, then maybe life is treating you so well that your love for the 'kingdom of self' obscures any hope of something greater in the kingdom of God.

God calls each of us where we are in our lives. And in our lives, we have been given all that is necessary to hear and respond to God's call. When life brings sadness and suffering we seem to be more receptive to the message of hope that Christ proclaims. We yearn for better days, for a joy that will lighten the burdens we carry in the world. However, the opposite is often true of periods of stability and prosperity. In these times, there is happiness to be had in the here and now, satisfaction in our achievements, and hope for still greater progress in our lives. We have a tendency to become self-assured and self-reliant, thinking, perhaps, that should the kingdom of God be manifest now, it would almost be a shame to give up all the pleasures we enjoy. When we lower the kingdom of God to our level and, in our prayers, only aspire to greater joys in this life, then we extinguish the hope that Christ comes to us to give.

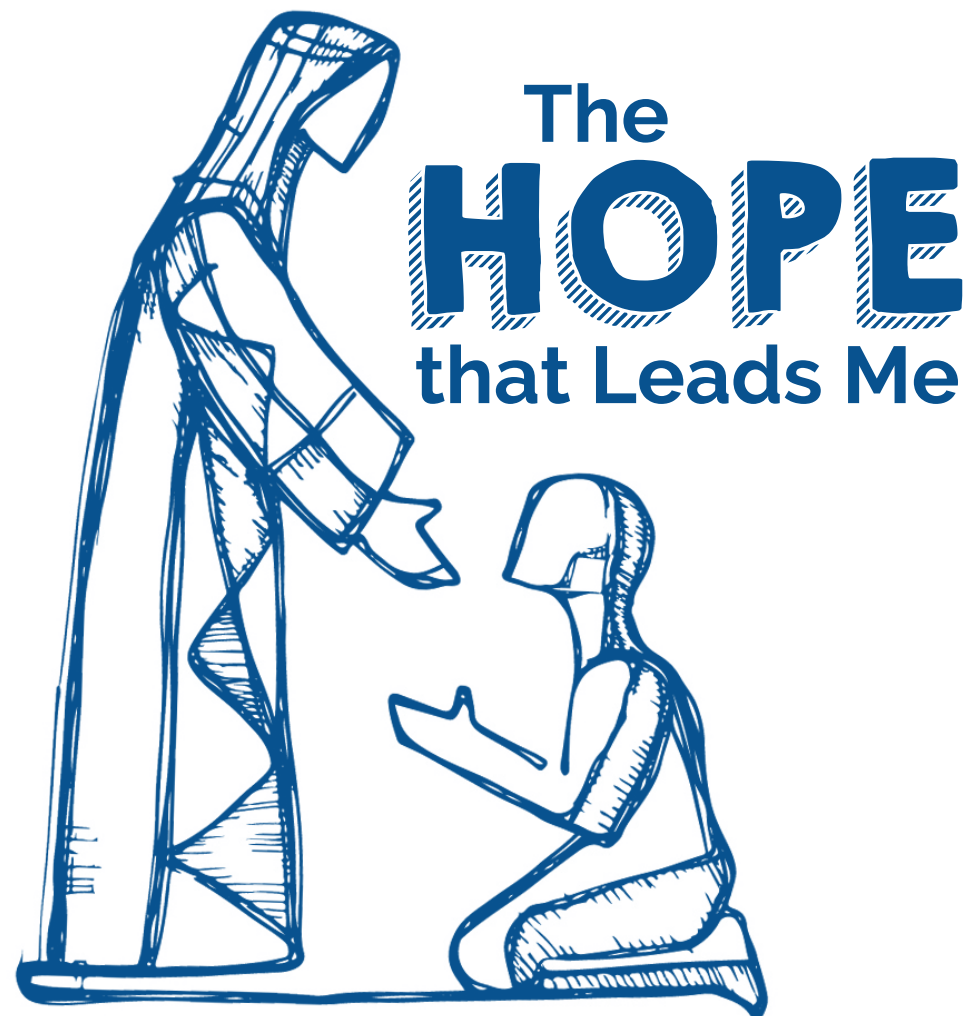
The first disciples may have lived good and happy lives, but we can see from their response to Christ's call, that they had a certain perspective. As fishermen, they would likely have known that their prosperity was not dependent on their skill alone, but on something greater than themselves; that self-reliance had its limits when tides drew their daily catch into deeper, inaccessible waters, or when storms rose in fury and threatened both livelihood and life itself. They would have recognised that their success was a blessing and their prosperity a gift that could so easily be taken away. Can we say the same of ourselves? When Christ called these first disciples, He called them to that thing that is greater than themselves. He called them to a participation in Himself, in His salvific mission. He called them to that hope which aspires to the very source of joy from which every blessing in this life comes; joys which are a pale reflection of the kingdom to which we are invited to live for eternity.

As with all the theological virtues, hope is acquired by human actions that are sanctified by divine grace. And as we all desire happiness, so must we dedicate our search for it to God, and see in its gift a glimpse of that happiness beyond our comprehension, which Christ calls us to today. Responding to that call may not always bring joy in the conventional, worldly sense – for the countless martyrs on whose bones our Church is built, it brought precisely the opposite – but when our joy is Christ Himself, all material pleasures lose their lustre and can be left behind – as the disciples left their nets, their families, their lives – as we follow the source of all joy to its source and summit. †

BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE **21st January 2018**  
3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH





**CHURCH OF THE VISITATION**  
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 Parish Pastor : Rev. Fr George Harrison  
 Assistant Priest : Fr. Andrew Kooi

**DISCIPLESHIP : BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE.**  
**Hope : Experiencing Christ As I Am (January) 2018**  
*Towards 170 years of the Parish of Visitation*  
**(1848 - 2018)**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday - Friday  
 8.30am - 5.30 pm  
 Saturday : 8.30am - 7.30 pm  
 Sunday: 8.30 am - 3.00 pm  
 Confessions in Church ½  
*hour before all Weekend*  
**Masses at availability of**  
**priests**



**OUR PROGRAMME THIS 20 – 28 JANUARY 2018**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)** : Jona 3, 1-5, 110, Ps 24, 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc 8-9, 1 Cor 7, 29-31 Mk 1, 14-20  
*"Lord, Make Me Know Your Ways. Lord, Make Me Know Your Ways". (Psalm 24)*

Sat	20	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. Mary)	
Sun	21	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation : St. Cecilia ) Eucharist (E) (Animation : St. George) Eucharist (C) 4.30 pm : Titi (M) Eucharist (BM)	RE(T): 8.45-10.15 am; RE(C):9-10.30 am : RE(E) & (BM)10.45 -12.15pm RCIA (T) 9.00 -10.30 am ; RCIA (BM) 11.00 am -12.30pm RCIA (E) 11.00 -12.30pm ; RCIA(M) : 9.00 -10.30 am
Mon	22	6.45 am	Eucharist	<i>Charismatic (E) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall. We welcome All to join in praising God in Song.</i>
Tues	23	No Morning Mass		<i>Charismatic (M) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall. We welcome All to join in praising God in Song</i>
Wed	24	Clergy Annual Pastoral Assembly		<b>7.45 pm : BECCOT Gathering</b>
Thur	25			<i>Charismatic (T) 7.30 pm at Visitation Hall. We welcome All to join in praising God in Song.</i>
Fri	26	6.45 am	Eucharist	

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)** : Deut 18 : 15-20, PS 94, 1-2, 6-8, 8-9 1 Cor 7, 32-35 Lk 1, 21b -28  
*"O That Today You Would Listen To His Voice! Harden Not Your Hearts. Harden Not Your Hearts.". (Psalm 94)*

Sat	27	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rosary : 5.30 pm : Novena; 5.45 pm: Benediction Eucharist (E) (Animation : St.. Robert)	<b>10.00 am : Infant Baptism</b>
Sun	28	7.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Eucharist (T) (Animation : O L L, OSagga) Eucharist (E) (Animation : RE-Eng)) Eucharist (C) Eucharist (BM)	RE(T): 8.45-10.15 am; RE(C):9-10.30 am : RE(E) & (BM)10.45 -12.15pm RCIA (T) 9.00 -10.30 am ; RCIA (BM) 11.00 am -12.30pm RCIA (E) 11.00 -12.30pm ; RCIA(M) : 9.00 -10.30 am

**We welcome new Parishioners/Students** from University / Colleges in the vicinity of Seremban. Kindly register at the parish office or email us at: [serembanvisitation@gmail.com](mailto:serembanvisitation@gmail.com). *You will receive a Prayer Card (Magnificat). Pray it daily.*

**Thank you to : BECs – St, Mary and St. George** for Mass Animation this weekend.

- i) **Parish Weekend Collections :**  
13/14 January : RM8418.25  
**God Bless All Generous Donors**
- ii) **Visitation Praise Dance** 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary cum CNY celebration on 10 Feb 2018 @ RM10.00 per pax. Call Angleine ( 017-6943045 / Florence (016-2819788) All are welcome.
- iii) **Booking of Premises/rooms/Church** for meetings /activities /practices. Advance notice of booking required through parish office. No last minute booking.

➤ **Helping Hands - To Help Students cope with School work and Exams.**  
2018 will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of service. We need more volunteers to help these needy students. Please contact Mr. Francis Jesu (012-2964336) or Mr. Hilary Sta Maria (019-6547347) Registration for these classes will be on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan in the Visitation Hall after the English Mass at 9.00 am

- **Book Mission cum Vocation Road Show.** The Daughters of St. Paul will having a Book Mission on 20 & 21 January 2018 (Sat/Sun).
- **Tables and Chairs etc** from RE classrooms /Church premises are not to be removed at all time. They are to be kept in good use and not to be tampered.

**Wedding Bells :**  
 a) Tharumanraj & Roslin : 27 Jan. @ 11.00 am  
 b) Dhani Darshan & Annabel : 27 Jan @ 3.30 pm

- **Archdiocesan Vocation Promotion Team (APVT)** will be here on 20/21 January 2018 for promotion of Vocations. We welcome them.
- **LENTEEN RETREAT 2018 :-"METANOIA" - Tear your Hearts not your Garments (Joel 2 : 13)**  
 Tamil : 16 Feb 2018 (Sat) - 10.00 am - 6.00 pm  
 English : 17 & 18 Feb : (Sat) @9.00 am - 8.00 pm / (Sun) @ 9.00 am - 2.00pm  
 Mandarin : 10 Feb 2018 (Sat) @ 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm  
 BM : 10 & 11 Feb 2018 : (Sat) @ 9 am - 4 pm / (Sun) @ 9 am - 12.30 pm
- **Christian Unity Week** - Week of Prayer with all our Christian Brothers and Sisters on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30 pm @ Visitation Hall. All are welcome. Registration after all Masses. Call Christopher K (019-6216194)
- **Priestly Ordination of Deacon Nicholas Hoh Jeng Kin, OCD** from the Carmelite Friary, Rahang Seremban,  
 Date : 31 January 2018 (Public Holiday) @ 10.30 am  
 Place : Church of St. Thomas More, Subang Jaya. All are welcome.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 (Sat) (170 yrs Anniversary Celebration).** Adrian (E):010 8970642  
 Henderson (BM)-019-4688277 / Irene (T) 0163666843  
 Edwin (M) 0122059209
- **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat :** An invitation to step back in safety, to lift hurts of abortion to God, knowing that the promise of forgiveness and healing is there. Retreat in Penang on 16-18 Mar 2018. If you or someone you know has been touched by abortion please call confidential line 016-4190538 (Cyrilla) (between 7-9m) or email [healinggracerachelsvineyard@gmail.com](mailto:healinggracerachelsvineyard@gmail.com) before 16 Feb 2018



- Fr. George will be away on leave from 13 - 21 January 2018
- Clergy Annual Pastoral Assembly (CAPA) : 22 - 25 January 2018
- BECCOT Gathering : 7.45 pm at the Visitation Hall
- "Ponggal" Festival : 27 Jan (Sat) @ 7.00 pm : Talk in Tamil by C. Pandithurai - Title : Everyday is a Good Day"  
28 January 2018 @ 2 pm - 7.30 pm - Traditional games & Cultural Show.  
Venue : Visitation Hall, All are welcome. Come in Cultural traditional attire .
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Sagga Feast : 9 - 11 February 2018
- Ash Wednesday : 14 February 2018
- CNY (Chinese New Year) Mass : 16 February 2018 @ 8.30 am